

CLAIMS

1. Carpet extractor for cleaning a carpeted surface comprising, in combination: a chassis movably supported on the carpeted surface, with the chassis being capable of being propelled at first and second working speeds, with the first working speed being slower than the second working speed; first means for selecting one of the first and second working speeds; a carpeted surface agitator carried by the chassis; a clean solution tank for containing clean solution carried by the chassis, with the clean solution being capable of being dispensed to the carpeted surface at high and low solution flow rates, with the high solution flow rate being greater than the low solution flow rate; second means for selecting one of the high and low solution flow rates; a dirty solution tank carried by the chassis; and means for picking up solution off the carpet surface for collection in the dirty solution tank, with the carpet extractor being operable in both a restorative cleaning mode or a maintenance cleaning mode depending upon the selection of the high and low solution flow rates and the first and second working speeds.

2. The carpet extractor of claim 1 with the clean solution being dispensed upon the carpeted surface before the agitator at the high solution flow rate and being dispensed upon the agitator at the low solution flow rate for introduction to the carpeted surface by the agitator

3. The carpet extractor of claim 2 with the agitator comprising a cylindrical brush rotated about an axis parallel to and spaced from the carpeted surface.

4. The carpet extractor of claim 3 with the clean solution being dispensed by a pump operating at a constant rate through a first dispensing line having at least one restorative nozzle allowing the high solution flow rate and a second dispensing line having at least one maintenance nozzle restricting dispensing of the clean solution to the low solution flow rate; and with the second means comprising a valve receiving clean solution from the pump and directing the clean solution to only one of the first and second dispensing lines.

5. The carpet extractor of claim 4 with the valve being manually actuated.
6. The carpet extractor of claim 5 with the second means being manually actuated.
7. The carpet extractor of claim 6 with the picking up means comprising a vacuum shoe in fluid communication with the dirty solution tank.
8. The carpet extractor of claim 7 with the chassis being movably supported by wheels and further including a handle for manipulation by an operator walking adjacent the chassis.
9. The carpet extractor of claim 1 with the clean solution being dispensed by a pump operating at a constant rate through a first dispensing line having at least one restorative nozzle allowing the high solution flow rate and a second dispensing line having at least one maintenance nozzle restricting dispensing of the clean solution to the low solution flow rate; and with the second means comprising a valve receiving clean solution from the pump and directing the clean solution to only one of the first and second dispensing lines.
10. The carpet extractor of claim 9 with the valve being manually actuated.
11. The carpet extractor of claim 10 with the second means being manually actuated.
12. Method for cleaning carpeted surfaces comprising:
 - selecting the dispensing of clean solution to the carpeted surface at either high and low solution flow rates, with the high solution flow rate being greater than the low solution flow rate;
 - agitating the carpeted surface including the dispensed clean solution;
 - picking up the solution off the carpeted surface after the carpeted surface has been agitated; and

selecting the propelling of the dispensing of clean solution, the agitating the carpeted surface, and pick up of the solution off the carpeted surface at either first and second working speeds along the carpeted surface, with the first working speed being slower than the second working speed, with the carpeted surface being restorative or maintenance cleaned depending upon the selection of the high and low solution flow rates and the first and second working speeds.

13. The method of claim 12 with agitating the carpeted surfaces comprising agitating the carpeted surface with an agitator; and with selecting the dispersing of clean solution comprising selecting the dispersing of clean solution either at the high solution flow rate upon the carpeted surface before the carpeted surface is agitated and at the low solution flow rate upon the agitator for introduction to the carpeted surface by the agitator.

14. The method of claim 13 with agitating the carpeted surface comprising rotating a cylindrical brush about an axis parallel to and spaced from the carpeted surface.

15. The method of claim 14 with selecting the dispensing of clean solution comprising: pumping the clean solution at a constant rate; providing a first dispensing line having at least one restorative nozzle allowing the high solution flow rate and a second dispensing line having at least one maintenance nozzle restricting dispensing of the clean solution to the low solution flow rate; and valving the pumped clean solution to only one of the first and second dispensing lines.

16. The method of claim 15 with valving the pumped clean solution comprising valving the pumped clean solution through a manually operated valve.

17. The method of claim 16 with selecting the propelling of the dispensing, agitating, and pick up comprising: providing a chassis having at least one driven wheel; and driving the driven wheel at one of the first and second working speeds.

18. The method of claim 17 with providing the chassis comprising providing the chassis with a handle; and manipulating the handle while an operator walks adjacent to the chassis.

19. The method of claim 12 with selecting the dispensing of clean solution comprising: pumping the clean solution at a constant rate; providing a first dispensing line having at least one restorative nozzle allowing the high solution flow rate and a second dispensing line having at least one maintenance nozzle restricting dispensing of the clean solution to the low solution flow rate; and valving the pumped clean solution to only one of the first and second dispensing lines.

20. The method of claim 19 with valving the pumped clean solution comprising valving the pumped clean solution through a manually operated valve.